



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL  
GRADUATION/DROPOUT PREVENTION TASKFORCE**

**January 15, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Executive Tower**

**1700 W. Washington**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Phoenix, AZ 85007**

**Meeting Notes**

**Members Present:** Chair Merl Waschler, Rhian Allvin, Cathleen Barton, Patti Beltram, Rusty Bowers, Dan Brown, Co-chair Darcy Renfro, Dr. Amy Schlessman (telephonic), and Dr. Jim Zaharis

**Members Not Present:** Mark Dobbins, Pearl Esau, Marv Lamer, Amanda McAdams, Diane McCarthy, Dr. Kent Scribner, and Carolyn Warner

**Staff Present:** Rebecca Gau, and Dale Frost

**Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions**

Merl Waschler called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. provided welcoming remarks and introduced the purpose of this meeting, which was to discuss one of the taskforce's recommendations in-depth.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Rusty Bowers moved for the approval of the December 18, 2012 Task force meeting minutes as presented. Patti Beltram seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Update: Graduation Rate Research Plan**

Chairman Waschler introduced Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation (GOEI) to review the Graduation Rate Research Plan. Ms. Gau explained that due to time restrictions, staff will move forward with the research plan giving updates to the Task Force as outlined in the research update document.

**Discussion: Recognize that CTE Provides Relevance**

Chairman Waschler introduced Rebecca Gau with GOEI to review the Governor's policy document that was released after the State of the State address. Ms. Gau pointed out some key items in the education portion of the document that ties into the Graduation Rate Task Force work. Ms. Gau then reviewed the white paper that was written regarding the Task Force recommendation: Recognize that CTE provides the relevance needed for core subjects and should be positioned as an avenue for core subject credit in areas such as math, language arts and science. Task Force members fully discussed possible barriers which included;

- Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirements
- Course review and acceptance
- CTE crosswalk funding

Members then reviewed possible actions to add to the paper which included;

- Refine and simplify HQT process
- Approve course competencies with the State Board
- Identify who is saying “no” and on what authority
- State Board defines a process to approve CTE credit bearing courses
  - Once process is indentified, encourage districts to permit courses

Members agreed to look into these actions further to help refine the recommendation.

### **Council Comments**

Chairman Waschler tasked Ms. Gau to rework this first recommendation. Ms. Gau agreed to this and advised that the Task Force members that at the next meeting she will review the recommendation of supporting funding for the CIS subscription for ECAP system for further discussion.

### **Call to the Public**

There were no requests from the public to address the Task Force.

### **Adjourn**

With no further business before the Taskforce, Chairman Merl Waschler adjourned the meeting at 5:04pm.